

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed January 8, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 8 and 9 are canceled. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-7 and 10-12 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.


In the Office Action mailed January 8, 2004, claims 1-8 and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,974,822 (Richter) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,967,767 (Seragnoli).

Claim 9 was found to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if written in independent form. In view of the allowable subject matter, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 8 and 9. Since claim 1 now includes limitations found to be allowable, amended independent claim 1 should now be allowable.

Dependent claims 2-7 and 10-12, being dependent on independent claim 1, are deemed allowable for the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claim 1.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: May 7, 2004